rehabilitation assistance of Rs. 20000/- per freed bonded labour is provided which is shared by the Central and State Governments on 50-50 basis but in the case of seven North Eastern States, 100% Central assistance is provided. Total number of bonded labourers rehabilitated and Central assistance provided during the last three years, year-wise and State- wise is given in Statement enclosed.

Statement

Number of Bonded Labourers rehabilitated and Central assistance released to States for their rehabilitation during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise is given below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	State	No. of bonded labourers re-habilitated	Amount released
2000-01	Arunachal Pradesh	1576	497.64
	Rajasthan	24	2.40
	Tamil Nadu	3656	365.60
2001-02	Bihar	28	2.80
	Haryana	7	0.40
	Maharashtra	14	0.80
	Karnataka	36	3.60
	Tamil Nadu	3844	384.40
2002-03	Bihar	125	12.50
	Chhattisgarh	124	12.40
	Haryana	21	0.11
	Karnataka	1854	185.40
	Maharashtra	5	0.50
	Punjab	69	6.90

EPF cover to employees in Karnataka

2674. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees, so far, covered under the Employees Provident Fund in Karnataka;

(b) whether it has come to Government's notice that a large number of employees working in rice mills and other factories in Bellary and other Districts are not covered under the Provident Fund Act; and

(c) whether Government would conduct extensive survey and ensure that all employees in establishments with more than 25 employees are covered under the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The total number of employees covered under the Employees Provident Fund in Karnataka as on 31.3.2003 is 36,53,639.

(b) and (c) The Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is applicable to the establishments employing 20 or more employees. With a view to enforce the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, regular surveys are conducted by collecting information from third party sources *viz.* license providers, service providers, trade unions and other like agencies followed by investigation by intelligence circles specifically constituted for the purpose.

To enroll employees in the rice mills industry, a drive has been launched in Bellary District and the present status of overage of employees in the rice mills in Bellary and Karnataka region is as follows:—

Office	No. of establishments	No. of employees
Bellary	21	445
Karnataka	132	2902

Status of women in new high tech economy

2675. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the new high tech economy is leaving women behind; and

(b) whether women are being encouraged to join better-paying higher status and faster-growing professions such as systems analysts, software designers, engineers etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Due to globalisation and economic liberalisation, fresh employment opportunities have been created in a